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1962/10/10

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action
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EXCISE

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Info

FROM: Ottawa

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TO: Secretary of State

SR

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NO: 452, October 10, 8 p.m.

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In view importance subject, called on External Affairs Minister Green today to discuss Soviet overflights to Cuba, summarized Department Circular 626, adding that Soviets for some time have been taking advantage of west in demanding refueling and overflight privileges, at same time not reciprocating.

Green said that on October 4, Soviet Embassy Ottawa had presented note requesting permission refuel and overfly two planes under reference Canadians had replied by inquiring (A) whether any arms or ammunition abroad, and (B) whether Soviets could not use Conakry route. Canadian reply added that supply Soviets crews was becoming burden on Canadian Government and Soviets could not expect to establish regular flights. Green mentioned Soviets had justified flights on grounds backup diplomatic personnel and Cuban students and fact that some of latter needed in Habana for student games beginning this week. Soviet representations were supported by Cuban request to Canadian Embassy Habana on October 6. No reply has been received from Soviets to External Affairs questions.

When Green said that Canadians would not permit Soviet overflights to become a matter of habit, I inquired whether I could pass this on to the Secretary as a statement of Canadian policy. He replied in the

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-2- 452, October 10, 8 p.m. from Ottawa

affirmative.

I replied that my understanding US views was if overflights were to take place, they should of course have Canadian crews aboard, but that US felt strongly that Canada should not assist development Soviet-Cuban air route by permitting refueling and overflight.

WHITE

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